

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 063175
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EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY
EUR:REBARBOUR
L/PM:TABOREK (INFO)
PM/SAS:SGEIS
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063175

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TU

SUBJECT: F-4 PROBLEM: ADMINISTRATION POSITION ON DEFENSE
COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA)

REF: (A) ANKARA 2061, (B) STATE 059036

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON COUNSELOR-DESIGNATE
NIMETZ MARCH 21 TO SAY THAT TURKISH FOREIGN AND DEFENSE
MINISTERS HAD DETERMINED THAT CONVERSION OF F-4 TRANS-
ACTION TO COMMERCIAL CONTRACT WAS "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE".
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ESENBEL EXPRESSED HOPE ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT SUGGEST
COMMERCIAL CONTRACT AS A VIABLE OPTION IN CONSULTATIONS
WITH CONGRESS.

2. NIMETZ TOLD ESENBEL THAT WE WERE PURSUING FMS APPROACH
AND WERE NOT SUGGESTING THE COMMERCIAL CONTRACT ROUTE, BUT
HAD ALREADY RECEIVED CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONS AS TO WHY THE

TURKISH GOVERNMENT DID NOT SELECT WHAT SEEMED TO BE SIMPLEST SOLUTION. POLITICAL PROBLEMS CITED BY TURKS, NIMETZ SAID, HAD NEVER SEEMED ENTIRELY PERSUASIVE TO OUTSIDERS. NIMETZ ASKED WHAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT REACTION WOULD BE IF IT WERE INFORMED THAT ONLY COURSE POSSIBLE WAS COMMERCIAL CONTRACT. ESENBEL SAID TURKS WOULD PREFER TO DROP CONTRACT IN THAT EVENT.

3. ESENBEL AGAIN URGED DEPARTMENT MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONVINCE CONGRESS OF MERITS OF INTERIM COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENT PROPOSED BY MCDONNELL DOUGLAS WHICH WOULD ALLOW PRODUCTION TO CONTINUE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30. NIMETZ NOTED SCHEDULE OF CONGRESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS THIS WEEK BUT DECLINED TO PREDICT WHAT CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO INTERIM ARRANGEMENT PROPOSAL WOULD BE. HE NOTED DETERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATION TO WORK STRAIGHTFORWARDLY WITH CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY AND TO AVOID PROBLEMS THAT WOULD HINDER LONG TERM INTERESTS OF TURKEY WITH RESPECT TO CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT. NIMETZ PLEDGED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLETE CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS BY THURSDAY AND ADMINISTRATION REVIEW OF F-4 OPTIONS AND INFORM THE TURKS OF OUR DECISION.

4. ESENBEL THEN ASKED WHEN ADMINISTRATION PLANNED TO TAKE ACTION ON DCA AND MAKE ITS POSITION ON AGREEMENT PUBLIC. NIMETZ RESPONDED THAT DECISION WAS UP TO PRESIDENT, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE. IN PRINCIPLE, HE SAID, ADMINISTRATION AGREES WITH CLIFFORD RECOMMENDATION REGARDING DCA BUT BELIEVES AGREEMENT SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BE MOVED THROUGH CONGRESS WHEN PASSAGE, WITH MINIMAL OPPOSITION, SEEMED LIKELY. TIMING MIGHT BE A MATTER OF A COUPLE OF MONTHS OR MORE; TURKS SHOULD ACCORDINGLY NOT EXPECT IMMEDIATE ACTION.

5. ESENBEL REMINDED NIMETZ OF POINT MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER TO AMBASSADOR MACOMBER THAT ADMINISTRATION ENDORSEMENT OF DCA FUNDING LEVELS WITHOUT AGREEMENT ITSELF WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO TURKEY, EXCEPT AS AN INTERIM MEASURE. NIMETZ SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DCA TO US-TURKISH RELATIONS BUT IN REGARD TO FUNDING LEVELS, ANNUAL APPROPRIATION PROCESS WOULD BE REQUIRED IN ANY EVENT, EVEN IF DCA WERE IN EFFECT.
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